

HOPEDALE BOARD OF HEALTH SHARPS DISPOSAL PROGRAM

To minimize the risk of improper disposal of syringes, needles, lancets and other sharp medical utensils, the Hopedale Board of Health has implemented a program that provides accessible methods to dispose of this type of waste in a safe manner.

This program is for Hopedale residents who have a medical condition that requires the use of injected medication. Needles may be contaminated with Hepatitis, AIDS and other infectious diseases; and, therefore, need to be disposed of appropriately to prevent accidental sticks from improperly discarded needles.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, between 600,000 and 800,000 needle stick injuries occur annually in health care settings. Every year thousands of people sustain dangerous needle stick injuries which are almost always preventable. By participating in the Sharps Disposal Program, residents can help to reduce these unnecessary injuries.

Participants of the Sharps Disposal Program should:

- **Place needles, syringes, lancets and other sharp objects into an approved bio-medical waste sharps container, heavy-duty plastic such as a detergent bottle or metal container with a screw on top that can be secured and tightly closed.**
- **Reinforce the closure securing it with heavy duty tape.**
- **Do not use clear plastic or glass for these containers.**
- **Take your sharps containers to the Hopedale Board of Health at the Town Hall during regular business hours please call ahead 508 634 2203 x 222**
- **Bring in containers once they are three quarters full.**
- **Never place the container in a regular trash for disposal**

The Hopedale Board of Health promotes and protects the health of our community through prevention and preparedness today, for a healthier tomorrow.